

SSUDAC Meeting Summary

March 19th, 2015

Members Present: Brian Abramson, Diana Brown, Mussie Betre, Don Hague, Curtis Johnson, Mel Tull, United Therapeutics

Members Absent: Carmen Camacho, Dan Figueroa, Sheldon Johnson, Suzy Zusy

Call to Order and Introductions:

- Mr. Don Hague, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
- The committee unanimously voted to approve the February 2015 meeting minutes for the record.

Reports:

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Lt. Jennifer McNeal, Montgomery County Police 3rd Precinct

- Lt. McNeal reported a slight drop in crime due to weather conditions.
- A homicide was reported at Piney Branch Rd.
- Three burglaries were reported, one at Mi Rancho Restaurant, one at Highland View Elementary School and the third at CityStyles.
- A recent fire at the corner of Bonifant St. & Wayne Ave. temporarily closed the Quarry House Tavern, Bombay Gaylord and Mandarin Chinese restaurants.
- Due to new evidence, police have made progress on the string of thefts from automobiles over the last few months and expect to clear a number of cases.
- The current complement of officers for the Central Business District is six officers and two sergeants.

Dialogue with Craig Howard

Craig Howard and Stephanie Bryant, MCG Dep't of Legislative Oversight

- Mr. Craig Howard and Ms. Stephanie Bryant presented their overview of Business Improvement District (BID) research as reported to the County Executive & Council.
- The study was requested by the County Council, and was a review of structures and characteristics of local communities. The report is a framework to explore how creation of a BID within the County might be possible.

- There are currently over 1,000 BIDs nationwide.
- The OLO team reviewed districts over six categories: Services, Formation & Local Government, Funding & Revenue, Governance Structure, Budget Allocation and Performance Management.
- The County Council was presented with three major discussion issues resulting from the report: the legal structures for creating business and community districts; establishing a process for creating these districts and the role of local business/community districts in the County's economic development plans.
- There will be a work session on the BID report with a Council subcommittee on March 23, 2015.

Civic Building Uses & Users

Eric Rasch, Silver Spring Civic Building

- Mr. Eric Rasch gave an overview of the Regional Center and Veterans Plaza and its assorted use categories.
- The Regional Center works closely with Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. (SSTCi) to produce free events.
- The department of Community use of Public Facilities has created an online application permitting process for private citizen events.
- The department has also launched the Community Access Pilot Program to provide a lower facility event rate for events and programs that qualify.

Silver Spring Urban District Report

Richard Bingham, Chief of Operations, Silver Spring Urban District

- Mr. Bingham gave an overview of recent Urban District efforts.
- The Urban District's Program Specialist II position is moving through Human Resources and should be posted for applications within the next month.
- The MD State Highway Administration (SHA) has begun work at the intersection of Sligo Ave. and Georgia Ave.
- The Urban District has partnered with Tennant Company and other County departments to host an Outdoor Road Show on March 27, 2015 to demonstrate streetscaping/cleaning machines.
- An Urban District supervisor is working to map all trip hazards and areas requiring concrete repairs to be addressed by the County's contractor, C&D Construction.

Regional Area Director's Report

Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- Mr. Rodriguez briefly addressed a variety of regional issues.
- All snow removal requests should be addressed to either 311 or the Silver Spring Urban District Hotline.
- The Department of Permitting Services has released a special guide for new restaurants to guide them through the permitting process.
- SSTCi has released their spring community celebrations calendar.
- The County's FY16 budget is currently undergoing review, with a May 15 deadline for Council approval.
- The committee unanimously approved a motion to write a letter regarding the Silver Spring Urban District FY16 budget to the County Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.